

# Strengthening the SAO workforce for cesarean section safety and quality: an action agenda

Vandana Tripathi, FC+





# A consensus agenda to promote safety and quality

- Participants in the FC+/MHTF global technical consultation developed a 13-point action agenda responding to the presented findings presented and emerging key priorities.
- This was not an HRH-focused group or forum, yet **most** of the action points reflected HRH needs related to the SAO workforce





# A consensus agenda to promote safety and quality

1. Encourage maternal health and safe surgery communities to **collaborate** to fill gaps and achieve higher efficiency.
2. Establish **minimum criteria** for facilities offering cesarean section; conduct standardized national assessments and establish accreditation platforms.
3. Ensure women's access to high-quality care throughout pregnancy, including through **midwife-led** labor management.
4. Expand health workforce, meeting workforce density needs through **rational recruitment and retention** strategies.
5. Support the SAO/SBA workforce for QI through **mentoring, supervision, and in-service training**.
6. Support transition to **academic, accredited curricula** for all SAO workers, including **professional development** for cadres delivering task-shifted surgical care.



# A consensus agenda to promote safety and quality

7. Produce and disseminate evidence-based, user-centered **guidelines and job aids** for safe, high-quality labor management, decision making, and cesarean care.
8. Promote improved **quality assessment and assurance** for EmONC, especially in contexts of widespread **task shifting**.
9. Review and build evidence for **QI tools** and strategies for surgical obstetric care.
10. Strengthen local health information systems to collect and use standardized data for **accountability across public and private facilities**.





# A consensus agenda to promote safety and quality

11. Strengthen facilitated **referrals** among sites providing obstetric care (e.g., via information/communication technology).
12. Increase **demand** among women for higher quality maternity care without over-intervention.
13. Campaign against cesarean overuse, raising **awareness** about individual and public health impacts.





# How to promote and act on this agenda?

- **Share the action agenda** with:
  - Global/regional professional and advocacy associations (e.g., WHO, FIGO, SAFOG, White Ribbon Alliance)
  - Country-level professional associations and academic medical/nursing/midwifery communities (e.g., OB-GYN society conferences, EmONC working groups)
- Bring the maternal/OB-GYN perspective to **global safe surgery events**, (e.g., WHO Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care - Mozambique, December 2017)
- **Advocate for midwife-led delivery care** through national/regional professional associations and academic institutions



# How to promote and act on this agenda?

- **Disseminate experiences of task shifting** and professionalizing surgical roles of non-physician clinicians in surgical obstetric care.
- **Share evidence/guideline gaps** (e.g., no benchmarks for SBA workforce) with agenda-setting institutions.
- **Strengthen pre-service SBA curricula** to reflect practice realities – e.g., retain alternatives to cesarean skills and address contextual challenges





# THANK YOU

Meeting reports available at: <https://fistulacare.org/resources/program-reports/cesarean-section-technical-consultation/>

